

# Crime Prevention Newsletter



Casa Grande Police Department — 373 East Val Vista Blvd. — (520) 421-8700

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## City Contacts

(Area Code is 520)

Animal Control	426-9300
Building	421-8630
City Attorney	421-8600
City Clerk	421-8608
City Court	421-8675
City Manager	421-8600
Finance	421-8601
Fire Department	421-8777
Golf Course	836-9216
Housing	421-8670
Human Resources	421-8600
Landfill	421-8628
Library	421-8710
Parks & Recreation	421-8677
Planning & Zoning	421-8637
Public Works	421-8625
Senior Center	421-8760

## Chief's Message

*Chief of Police Johnny Cervantes*



**W**ith the summer months mostly behind us and winter just ahead, a time of change is always good for reflection. When thinking about our beloved Casa Grande, I think about the wonderful work our police department employees are doing to make this city a safer place to live and work.

The accomplishments are many and the opportunities great, but I want to take a moment to speak to the broader audience, our partners, the residents of Casa Grande. Have you noticed graffiti in your neighborhood? How about broken windows, excessive littering or abandoned vehicles?

The reality is that without your extra eyes out there, the little things are often missed. A highly effective way of combating further problems like these from happening is to confront and fix them when they are still small. It doesn't necessarily mean that you need to call the police for every problem as some of them can be resolved on the spot. If you see some litter you can remove it, or maybe even partner with your neighbors to clean up a piece of property or a city sidewalk, or at least report it.

Property owners can hold tenants accountable for cleanliness. In cases of graffiti, you can contact the Police Department, and we will document the crime, and hopefully catch the perpetrator responsible. Likewise, we are willing to partner with our community to remove the graffiti through our abatement program.

The point of all of this is to send a clear message to vandals that we don't tolerate blight and we are committed to keeping Casa Grande clean. Sometimes the pace of life makes paying attention to these things difficult, but I wish to encourage everyone to find a way to remind ourselves that the little things really do matter.

If we can do that, and stay committed to the effort, I guarantee the overall effect will be a community with greater pride, greater attractiveness to perspective new residents, and a sense of ownership that will have positive impact, be it upon minor public nuisance or major crime.

## It Takes A Lot Of Faith - *Dr. Bob Cornelius, Chaplain/Counselor*



It takes a lot of faith to get up in the morning and face the world with all of its challenges.

Most people think of "faith" as a religious concept and it is, however it is also a psychological fact of life. We put our faith in friends and loved ones. We put our faith in our leaders and our nation. We put our faith in our machines and gadgets. We put our faith in the future and that there is some kind of meaning that is bigger than we are. Some even put their faith in the idea there is no "Higher

Power" and even that takes a lot of faith.

When that faith upon which we have placed our trust and committed our lives and relationships does not meet our expectations it is devastating and we have a sense of betrayal that can be depressing and leave us with a sense of being alone and helpless. I would not presume in this brief note to provide guidance in our search for meaning. I would however, challenge us to recognize the reality of our faith and nurture it as we determine how we will exercise it in our lives and our relationships.

## Citizens Police Academy - *Wendy Lloyd, Volunteer Coordinator*



community outreach, just to name a few.

Every year, we host a minimum of two Citizen Police Academies. We value our partnership with the Casa Grande community and this Academy provides a great opportunity to strengthen and nurture that relationship. It also gives citizens the opportunity to learn about great ways to volunteer with us. Our next Academy starts on October 7th and goes through November 20th. Classes are held at the Department, located at 373 East Val Vista Boulevard, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 - 9:00 pm throughout the 5 weeks. Each night, there are three instructors from various divisions

teaching the ins and outs of police work. Class space is limited to 35 participants.

If you are interested in attending the Academy or volunteering, please contact Wendy Lloyd at the Casa Grande Police Department at 520-421-8711 ext. 6140.

**CITIZENS  
POLICE  
ACADEMY**  
Enrolling  
Now



**\*\*\* Registration ends September 30<sup>th</sup> \*\*\***





## Mission Statement

The mission of the Casa Grande Police Department is to protect, serve, and sustain supporting partnerships with the community.

## Vision Statement

The Casa Grande Police Department is a leading, progressive, and unified agency of highly trained professionals who inspire excellence within law enforcement and partner with all people to protect, serve, and create a safe community.

## Core Values

- **Professionalism:** We value the diversity of all people in our community and will serve with equal dedication, respect, fairness and compassion. We pledge to protect and serve and are guided by an internal sense of pride and morality.
  - **Responsibility:** We hold ourselves accountable for our individual and Departmental actions. We value the trust and confidence of our community and believe in treating all people with respect and dignity.
  - **Integrity:** We commit ourselves to elevated standards of trust, responsibility, and discipline while promoting justice in a fair and impartial manner. We value our integrity and strive for personal and professional excellence.
  - **Determination:** We are dedicated to the organization, each other, our families and the citizens we serve. We maintain an unquestionable work ethic and strive to be the best at all we do.
  - **Ethics:** We strive to maintain a personal and professional set of moral principles that guide our behavior. We embrace our responsibilities and expect to be held accountable for our actions.
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## Playing it Safe on Halloween - Pointers for Parents

The Casa Grande Police Department is looking forward to a safe and fun Halloween this year! Let's take into consideration some of these great tips offered by the National Crime Prevention Council:

### Preparing Ghosts and Goblins for Their Tricks and Treats..

- Make sure older kids go out with friends.
- Younger children should be accompanied by an adult. If you live in a rural area, offer all kids a ride in the car. Set a time limit for children to trick-or-treat.
- Together, map out a safe route so you know where they'll be. Remind them not to take shortcuts through backyards, alleys, or playing fields.
- Remind kids not to enter a strange house or car.
- Try to get kids to trick-or-treat while it is still light out. If it is dark, make sure the children are carrying flashlights that work.

### Eating the Treats..

- Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or substantial snack beforehand.
- Check out all treats at home in a well-lighted place.
- What to eat? Only unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious. By all means, remind kids not to eat everything at once or they'll be feeling pretty ghoulish for a while.

### "Unhaunting" Your House and Neighborhood..

- Welcome trick-or-treaters at home by turning on your exterior lights.
- Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard to visitors.
- Ask your Neighborhood Watch or citizens' group to patrol the community.
- Involve students from a local college or university to be "witch's helpers." These students help trick-or-treaters cross busy streets and watch out for ghoulish behavior.

- Drive slowly all evening. You never know what creature may suddenly cross your path.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to your local police or sheriff's department.

### Consider This..

Parents and kids can avoid trick-or-treating troubles entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests, music, scary stories, and much more. Make your Halloween party the place to be! Schools, fire stations, libraries, even malls in many communities organize "haunted houses" and other festivities for families.

### Making Safe Costumes..

- Check that costumes are flame-retardant so the little ones aren't in danger near candlelit jack-o-lanterns and other fire hazards.
- Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night.
- Encourage kids to wear comfortable shoes. Try makeup instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable and, more importantly, they can obstruct a child's vision—a dangerous thing when kids are crossing streets and going up and down steps. Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes.

### Dressed Up and Dangerous?

Halloween blood and gore are harmless stuff for the most part. But sometimes dressing up as a superhero, a scary monster, or a slimy alien from outer space coupled with the excitement of Halloween brings out aggressive behavior. Even fake knives, swords, and guns can accidentally hurt people. If these objects are part of a child's costume, make sure they are made from cardboard or other flexible materials. Better yet, challenge kids to create costumes that don't need "weapons" to







## Public Safety Dispatching As A Career Choice - *Melissa Engstrom, Public Safety Dispatcher*



Many people may not know or consider public safety dispatching as a career choice, when in fact it is. Being a public safety dispatcher can be a very rewarding career. There are several things to consider before deciding to proceed into this field. "What are the skills necessary to perform the job tasks? Are there any job prerequisites? And is this the profession for me?"

The first thing that should be addressed is, "What are some of the skills required to be a dispatcher?" Some of the most important skills are:

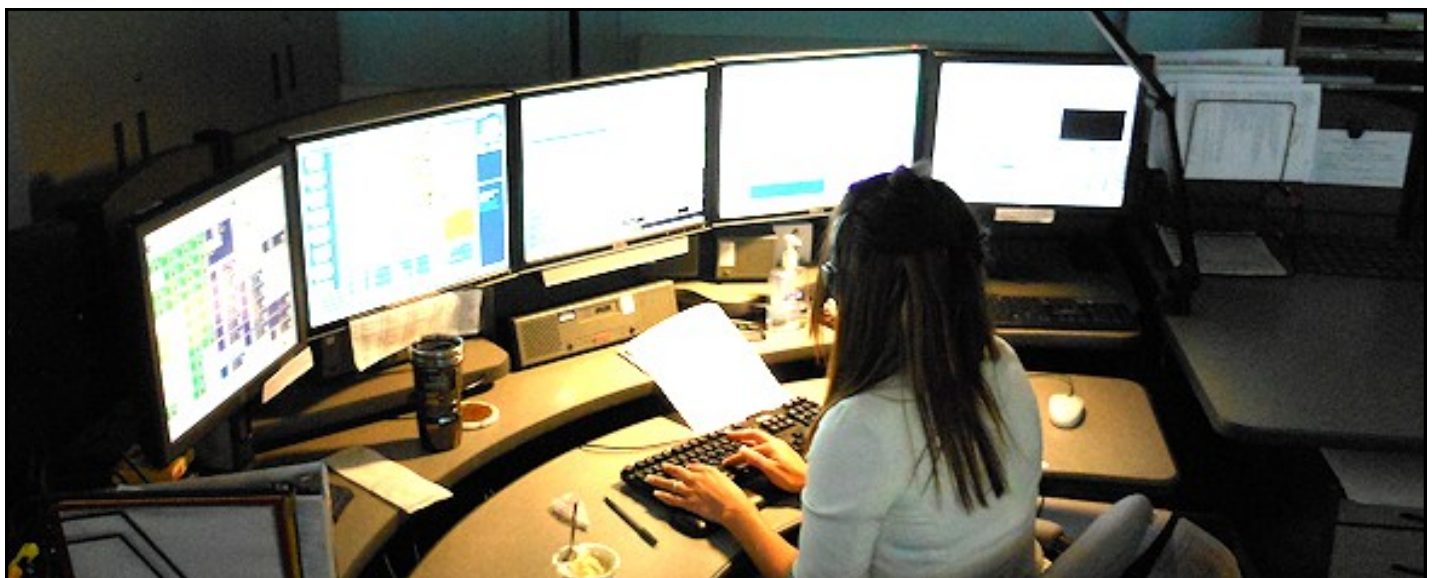
- Ability to prioritize
- Multi-task
- Typing (45 WPM)
- Attention to detail
- Ability to stay calm in stressful situations.

Most centers provide on the job training; the Casa Grande Public Safety Communications Department currently has a 24-week training program. The prerequisites are a high school diploma and the availability to work shift-work; including weekends and holidays. There are many different types of centers around the

country. Some centers are solely police dispatching centers, or fire and EMS centers, and 911 centers. The Casa Grande Communications Center is currently cross-trained in all positions: Police, Fire and EMS, and Call-taking. This can be a positive aspect providing the dispatcher the opportunity to work different positions in the department making every day different. The Communications Center is on a four-day work week with ten hour shifts. This gives employees the chance to work one day on Police, one on Fire and ACJIS (National and Statewide interface for wants and warrants checks), call-taking, with an additional day working one of the latter. There are many benefits to working at the Casa Grande Public Safety Communications Center. Some include:

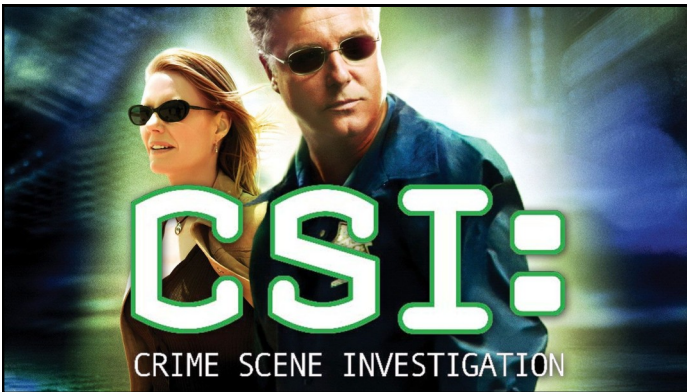
- Competitive wages
- Newly remodeled Center
- Opportunity to assist and help the community

The Casa Grande Communications Center is always looking for hard-working and dedicated employees. The Center welcomes future candidates to come in and observe the center. This can help decide whether this is an applicable career choice or not. There is employment information located on the City's website and interest cards at city hall.





## Crime Scene Investigation: Reality vs. TV - Greg Roorda, Crime Scene Analyst



The hit television series CSI: Las Vegas and its spin off programs (CSI: Miami and CSI: New York) has created an explosion of interest in the fields of forensic science and crime scene investigation. Along with the popularity and interest the television programs have generated, they have also created many misconceptions about the fields of forensic science and crime scene investigation. The misconceptions created by these tv shows has led to the unrealistic expectations of the forensic science field and its practitioners by both the public and the legal community (Saferstein, 2014).

At the center of these misconceptions is the notion that the Crime Scene Investigator performs or participates in all aspects of the investigation. On television programs such as CSI: Las Vegas, the Crime Scene Investigator carries a weapon, writes the search warrant, interviews suspects and witnesses, collects the items of evidence and performs all scientific analysis on the items of evidence. In reality, Crime Scene Technicians are civilian personnel and do not carry a service weapon. Detectives are most likely to write the search warrant and interview any suspects) and/or victims.

The Crime Scene Technician is responsible for documenting the crime scene and processing the crime scene through the following: notes, photographs, diagram sketches, fingerprint processing, DNA collection and evidence collection. Oftentimes, the evidence collected by the Crime Scene Technician is sent to a crime lab for further in depth analysis by a forensic scientist specializing in a specific area of forensic science, such as DNA or firearm examination.

In addition, television programs like CSI: Las Vegas portray search warrant executions, crime scene processing, interviewing of suspects or victims and forensic analysis as being completed in a relatively short period of time. The truth is that crime scene processing can take many hours of being thorough and precise. Unfortunately, fingerprint, DNA and other laboratory results are not received for weeks, months or even years. The results may depend on the suspect's fingerprints or DNA being in the data bases or on the Crime Lab's back log.

The dramatization of forensic science on television has led the public to believe that every crime scene will yield forensic evidence. However, it produces unrealistic expectations that a prosecutor's case should always be bolstered and supported by forensic evidence. This phenomenon is known as the "CSI effect" (Saferstein, 2014).

Quite often, no forensic evidence is located at the crime scene by the Crime Scene Technicians. This absence of evidence does not indicate that the crime did not occur or that the crime was not committed by the suspect in question, but merely that there was no evidence at the crime scene to be located by the Crime Scene Technicians.



### REFERENCES:

Saferstein, R.(2014). *Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science* (11<sup>th</sup> ed). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education Inc.

## Safety In The Park - Joe Luhn, CGPD Park Ranger



People visit parks for a variety of reasons; mostly because they provide contact with the natural environment, a social setting offering opportunities for meeting friends and family, and watching others engage in

outdoor activities. These all help establish a feeling of comfort and security in our community.

Well designed, well used parks such as dog runs, sports complexes and hiking trails are great assets for a community. That asset can quickly become a liability when parks become unsafe, resulting in the loss of value and benefit to the community. Keeping these areas safe is important to the wellness of a community and has a direct correlation to how often they are visited.

Casa Grande takes tremendous pride in maintaining safe parks and trails for all to enjoy. For all active park visitors, and for those of you thinking of visiting in the near future, we want to provide you with some safety tips to make your visit enjoyable.

- Read and obey posted rules and regulations, as well as park hours.
- Visit parks and trails with other people. Avoid being alone in secluded areas, especially at night.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Carry a cell phone in case of emergencies.

- Keep children under supervision.
- Let someone know when deciding to visit parks and using trails.
- Vary your routine.
- Avoid wearing headphones. Being able to hear things around you will help you notice something you cannot see.
- Park in well-lit areas and near other vehicles if possible.
- Lock your vehicle or bicycle.
- Obey posted speed limits.

If you should see any criminal activity in progress, don't hesitate to call the Police at 911. If it is a prior crime, such as graffiti or criminal damage to property, call the non-emergency line at (520) 421-8700.

For a complete list of Casa Grande Parks and support information, visit:

<http://www.casagrandeaz.gov/rec/parks/>

Remember, life can be stressful. The need to gather, share conversations and friendships, celebrate a birthday or just to unwind and "get back to nature" is a basic human and universal need. Parks satisfy that need. Let's take care of our parks and ourselves. Be safe out there!





## Community Policing - *Officer Thomas Anderson, Public Information Officer*

### A Traditional Strategy with a New Effort

The Mission of the Casa Grande Police Department is to protect, serve and sustain supporting partnerships with the community.

In the past year, our department has initiated a door-to-door strategy of meeting with citizens to identify community issues and concerns. This strategy is not a new one to policing. Patrol officers are assigned to a district or beat and work that specific area for a period of 6 months or more in an effort to become familiar with the residents, business owners and common issues that area may experience. This effort has led to the reduction of crime and a reduction of the fear of crime, but more importantly, has improved the relationship our officers have with community members.

The success of this strategy is not easy to qualify or quantify, but we hear daily reports from citizens about productive contacts they have with our officers in the community. Protecting and serving is the core of any

law enforcement agency, but to establish a trusting relationship with the community is equally as important. We encourage an open line of communication between our officers and citizens.

There are several ways to meet your local police officers, such as Neighborhood Watch meetings, community gatherings, Silent Witness Anti-Crime Night in October, Public Safety Awareness Day in March, school presentations and more. These are settings where officers and their equipment are available for citizens to ask questions, have conversations and learn more about crime prevention efforts.

We take great pride in serving our community and we ask our citizens to join us in these efforts. Community Policing is a partnership, with each person holding themselves responsible and accountable for that relationship. We thank you for your support and look forward to protecting you, serving you, and partnering with you in the future!

## Alarm Installers Must Be Licensed - *Sheila Chavez, Alarm & Graffiti Coordinator*

### Alarm Installers Must Have An Alarm Agent License Issued By The State Of Arizona



Recently, the Casa Grande Police Department's Alarm Coordinator received a call from a concerned citizen who was feeling a little uneasy about having scheduled

an alarm company to come to her home and install a security system. She explained that she was an older citizen and did not have anyone to help her check the company out. We spoke with her several times that day, and also called the alarm company hired to install the system. The Alarm Coordinator was given a business license number, but it was determined that the alarm company's installer did not have the proper licenses to install the alarm system.

The Arizona Board of Technical Registration who is responsible for licensing alarm agents in the State of Arizona was contacted. The AZBTR advised that state license number that the alarm company gave the Alarm Coordinator was not a number that was used by the AZBTR. Attempts were made to contact the alarm company with no success. A message was left stating that the number was not a state number and asked for an-

other number in an attempt to identify the alarm agent's license. The alarm company never returned the call and an official complaint was filed on behalf of the concerned citizen.

So, even if an alarm company has a business license, it does not mean they are lawfully authorized to enter your home. Any person representing an alarm company must have a state alarm agent license and wear it on their person which is identifiable with the AZBTR name. Only licensed agents have been fingerprinted and had their background checked and have been cleared by the alarm company to go into your home.

If you have reason to believe they do not possess the proper licenses, ask them for documentation. "Do you have a business license with the city of Casa Grande?", "Have you registered with the Arizona Board of Technical Registration?", and "What is your AZBTR license number?"

You can then call the AZBTR at (602) 364-4935 during normal business hours and ask if the number is valid or not. You may want to have all information in front of you when you call, such as alarm company's name and phone number, the installation person's name, phone number and alarm agent's license number, so that the AZBTR can verify the information.

Casa Grande Police Department offers an Alarm Awareness Class to the public, twice a month. The schedule for the classes can be found on the city website at [www.casagrandeaz.gov](#) and registration is required. Upon completion of the class the alarm user will receive a \$50 waiver that may be applied as a credit to false alarm fees on their account.

For more information or to register for the class, contact Alarm Coordinator Sheila Chavez at (520) 421-8711 ext. 6570.

## The Importance Of Family Dinners - *Nicole Foster, Prevention Specialist, Casa Grande Alliance*

**T**eens that have good relationships with their parents are 2 times less likely to use alcohol and 3 to 4 times less likely to use marijuana. One way to keep that good relationship with your child is by having frequent family dinners, 5 to 7 times per week, whether at home or at a restaurant. It is not about the food being eaten, but about the conversation and parental engagement that takes place at the dinner table. Family dinners are also a wonderful opportunity to have open and honest conversations about drugs and alcohol and your house rules regarding alcohol and other drugs. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University states, "We know from years of research that teens whose parents are 'hands on'-- engaged in their teens' day to day lives, relaxing with them, having frequent family dinners, supervising them, establishing standards of behavior, and setting positive examples of healthy behavior--are much less likely to use drugs, drink or smoke."

'National Family Day' is on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 and we encourage everyone to either continue having regular family dinners or make this a new tradition within

your family. For conversation starters, family activities, and more information on National Family Day, go to:

[www.CASAFamilyDay.org](http://www.CASAFamilyDay.org)

For more information regarding substance abuse prevention, contact the Casa Grande Alliance at 520-836-5022 or visit our website at:

[www.CasaGrandeAlliance.org](http://www.CasaGrandeAlliance.org)



Data & Image Source: The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, The Importance of Family Dinners VIII September 2012

## Graffiti Abatement Program - *Sheila Chavez, Alarm & Graffiti Coordinator*



Please join the Casa Grande Police Department in congratulating our Graffiti Adopt-a-Wall program sponsors who have made a difference in the community by sponsoring a wall. The following individuals and groups have taken on the responsibility of watching over walls that had been continuously tagged by graffiti vandals:

- Casa Grande Police Department – Special Operations Division
- David Blatt – 2 whole neighborhoods
- Banner Casa Grande Medical Center Human Resources Department
- Cactus Middle School – National Junior Honor Society – 2 walls
- Marge Jantz
- Vista Grande Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.) – 3 walls
- Boys & Girls Club of the Casa Grande Valley
- Ramiro (Ray) Sanchez
- James Kenny – 2 walls
- Rose, Joseph, and Benjamin Briggs – 3 walls
- Fred & Kim Tucker
- Patricia Castillo

For the three years that the Adopt-a-Wall program has been in existence in Casa Grande, a few of walls have only been tagged a few times. The majority of the walls have had zero graffiti for almost three years.

Interested individuals or groups who would like more information on adopting a wall or who would like to recommend a wall, can contact Sheila Chavez, Graffiti Abatement Coordinator at (520) 421-8711 ext. 6570.

## Silent Witness Anti-Crime Night - *Wendy Lloyd, Volunteer Coordinator*



Silent witness Anti-Crime Night is an annual event held on the first Friday of the month of October. This event is a partnership between the Casa Grande Police Department and Silent Witness and is an education and prevention event to let residents of Pinal County learn about the different resources available. During the evening, attendees visit the different vendors participating in this event.

This event is a fundraiser for the Silent Witness program which helps raise funds to give out rewards for community residents providing information leading to the solving of crime.

Visitors will be able to purchase inexpensive meals for \$3.00 as well as raffle tickets. Bouncers will be on site for children. Last year's event had 7500 plus people attend. This event is fun for the whole family, so come out and enjoy the fun!!!!

To participate in this event you can call Wendy Lloyd at Casa Grande Police Department 520-421-8711 ext. 6140 or 520-252-9707.



## Important Police Department Numbers & Internet Sites

(Area Code is 520)

- Police (Emergency) 911
- Police (Non-Emergency) 421-8700
- Crime Prevention Unit 421-8711 ext. 6760
- Volunteer Unit 421-8711 ext. 6140
- Traffic/School Resource Unit 421-8711 ext. 6370
- Graffiti/Alarm Unit 421-8711 ext. 6570



[www.facebook.com/cgpolice](http://www.facebook.com/cgpolice)



[www.twitter.com/casagrandepd](http://www.twitter.com/casagrandepd)



[www.casagrandesilentwitness.com](http://www.casagrandesilentwitness.com)

Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter can be forwarded to the Crime Prevention Unit:

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Crime Prevention Office  
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(520) 421-8711 Ext 6760  
[tanderson@ci.casa-grande.az.us](mailto:tanderson@ci.casa-grande.az.us)

## Upcoming Events

- Viva Grande - Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Paul Mason Sportsplex.  
For information contact Erica Perez at (520) 421-8760.
- Silent Witness Anti-Crime Night - Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Carr-McNatt Park.  
For information contact Wendy Lloyd at (520) 421-8711 ext. 6140.
- Casa Grande Neighbors United (Graffiti Paint-over Event) - Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
at Mondo Anaya Community Center, 1487 N. Crane Street.